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To be used for backgrounder with foreign ambassadors
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE WASHDC
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DATE 10-22-01 BY SP/SP

Gentlemen:

We have asked you to gather here today to acquaint you with our information on the introduction of offensive ballistic missiles in Cuba.

A massive Soviet military build-up in Cuba, as you all know, started in late July. Refugees from Cuba reported what they frequently called ICBM's or ballistic missiles. Each report was checked out carefully against other sources and it turned out that what was stimulatory such reports at that time was actually surface-to-air anti-aircraft missiles. As time went on, however, the military build-up in Cuba accelerated ~~and our suspicions~~ and ~~seen.~~

Recently, we noticed the beginnings of something unusual. Some refugee reports also began to point in this direction. During the past month we intensified our ~~We took special and specific surveillance~~

meds rec

— Last week we suddenly ⁻²⁻ concrete evidence
measures, and soon detected the first signs of the deployment
of offensive ballistic missiles. What follows was a very
rapid deployment. Just how quickly and with what careful
organization the deployment has been taking place you
can see on these slides. Here is a picture of a Cuban
offensive missile site. Here is the same site exactly
24 hours later. The pattern has been one of extraordinary
speed of deployment.

There are two kinds of offensive missile sites in
Cuba. One type is for 1,000 mile medium range ballistic
missile (MRBM). This is a mobile, field type weapon
which can be moved into place very rapidly. The other
type is a 2200 mile intermediate range ballistic missile
(IRBM). These sites are in various stages of construction.
Each of these sites has four launch pads.

All sites are designed for repeated launchings and are almost certain to have enough missiles for a second salvo.

SLIDE (MRBM Site Sagua La Grande)

Let me show you what an MRBM site looks like.

Terrain features here have dictated considerable clearing and grading. The pattern of the sites is clear. There are missile erectors on two of the launch pads, tents, ready buildings, and vehicles, including fuel trucks. The sizes of the missiles identified at these two sites in other photography, the associated equipment, and the buildings are almost identical to those found at other sites in Cuba.

SLIDE (MRBM's, Cuba and Moscow May Day Parade)

This slide will give you an indication of the certainty with which we have identified these ballistic missiles. This is a greatly-enlarged portion of one of the field launch sites for 1,000 mile missiles in Cuba--through photo-interpretation under the microscope we can identify erecting and

handling equipment and missiles on trailers. These are identical with the Soviet 1,000 mile missiles which have been displayed in Moscow parades for several years, as shown in the adjoining picture.

SLIDE (IRBM Site)

Here is a photograph of one of the IRBM sites under construction. Earth scrapings for four launch pads are clearly visible and the initial work on a fourth pad is underway. There are two control-bunkers, one between each of the pairs of launch positions. The site is being fenced.

SLIDE (IRBM Site with Nuclear Storage)

MRBM's and IRBM's are capable of delivering nuclear warheads with yields in the low megaton range and, of course, make no military sense without them. We have no direct evidence that nuclear warheads are in Cuba, but we would not expect to get such evidence--warheads are small items, easily concealed, and probably very closely guarded. However, we are ~~tiny~~ sure that nuclear warhead storage facilities are under construction.

This slide shows such a storage facility, adjacent to one of the fixed IRBM launch sites. The launch site, with its four launch pads, is to the right.

To the left is the probable warhead storage facility, whose construction is proceeding rapidly. A key feature is the curve-roofed building, which is probably to be earth-covered when completed. What appear to be similar, though somewhat smaller, facilities have been observed under construction at four of the other ballistic missile launch sites in Cuba.

In addition, a specially secure port facility in western Cuba may be intended for nuclear weapons offloading. It includes buildings under construction in a new large excavation, and double security fencing.

SLIDE (Range Circles)

I have referred to the ranges of the ballistic missiles now being deployed in Cuba. This map illustrates the threat they pose to this hemisphere. The MRBM sites employ missiles which are capable of reaching any target within the 1020 mile range circle shown on the map. The IRBM sites will be capable of launching missiles to any target within the 2200 mile range circle.

SLIDE (IL-28's)

In addition to ballistic missiles, there is also firm evidence of the recent arrival of other Soviet offensive weapons in Cuba.

This slide shows a Soviet ship bound for Cuba in early October, with 10 crates on deck. These crates are especially designed to transport the fuselages of IL-28 jet bombers. Subsequent photography of an airfield in Western Cuba revealed 22 of these crates. As the slide shows, four of the aircraft were uncrated and one was partially assembled. These bombers have an operating radius of about 750 miles.

SLIDE (SAM Deployment Map)

Our present information also confirms a very significant build up of other weapons, which have been supplied in quantity since July of this year.

This slide shows the extent of deployment of surface-to-air missile sites in Cuba. We have identified 24 such sites, each with six launchers.

Of the 24 sites, 22 are believed to be operational with some missiles on launchers. The remainder could be operational in about a week. As

you can see, with their weapon radius of about 25 miles, the identified sites provide antiaircraft weapons for most of the island.

The slide also shows 3 coastal missile sites, 2 of them now operational, with cruise missiles of 35-40 miles range.

LAST SLIDE OFF

The inventory of other major Soviet weapons now identified in Cuba also includes about 100 MIG jet fighters, of which 39 are of the advanced MIG-21 type, and 12 Komar class patrol boats for launching 10-15 mile cruise missiles. Virtually all of these weapons are now operational.

To support this weapons build up in Cuba, and to operate the most advanced weapons such as ballistic missiles and surface-to-air missiles, the Soviets have sent large numbers of military personnel to Cuba. A conservative estimate, based on known ship arrivals, is that several thousand Soviet personnel are now in Cuba.

SIGNIFICANCE (No Slide)

The firm evidence of what is now going on makes it clear that the USSR is making a major military investment in Cuba with advanced weapon systems.

The USSR is rapidly developing Cuba into an important offensive base, with a ballistic missile deployment which is clearly going well beyond a token capability.